

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0045

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # F-003 - Conference and Morale Activities
Building {Current}
Property Date: 1946
Address(s): Bliss Street {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - Exterior side	Brick	
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Shed		Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Brick	Structural System - Stretcher Bond
Windows	Windows - Sash, double-hung	Vinyl	Windows - 1/1

Site Description: Set on a flat, level area along Bliss Street between F-2 (001-0027-0044) and F-4 (001-0027-0046), with trees located to the southeast.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Meeting Hall	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Meeting Hall

Est. Date of Construction: 1946 {Owner/written data} Accessed? No Not accessible
Primary Resource? Yes Number of Stories: 1.5
Architectural Style: Other Condition: Good
Interior Plan Type: Irregular Threats to Resource: None Known

Description: This long, rectangular building is made of brick laid in stretcher bond. A large portion of the southwest side of the originally gabled roof building has been raised a half-story and covered with a flat roof; a brick belt course marks the edge between the first and half story above. Metal eaves with aluminum flashing overhang on the northeast and unaltered portions of the southwest elevations. The roof materials are not visible. Three capped aluminum exhaust vents pierce the roof while mechanical equipment associated with modern air conditioning is located in several areas of the roof. The original windows have been replaced with one-over-one vinyl sash. Many window openings have been filled-in with brick on all sides. An exterior brick chimney is located on the northeast elevation. A shed roof porch, protecting mechanical equipment, has been added to the one-story portion of the southwest elevation. All of the doors have been replaced.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

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National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This one-story masonry building, built in 1946, originally served as an open and closed officers' mess hall for the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). The building was designated as "F-3" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. It was designated as the "Officers Mess" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It was again identified as the "F-3" in the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by U.S. Navy. The building is now houses conferences, staff meetings and morale building activities. It is located on Bliss Streets, between the Telecommunication Facility Building (001-0027-0044, WFF # F-002) and a Dormitory Building (001-0027-0046, WFF # F-004) in a level area near the geographic center of the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base. Concrete sidewalks surround the building, with extensions to each doorway and the adjacent buildings. A wooded area is located behind the building to the southeast.

This building is an example of a Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945 – present) period and was one of several buildings built on CNAAS following the end of World War II. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has been altered considerably on the interior since its original construction and now serves an administrative function.

The Conference and Morale Activities Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It is not associated with any event or individual significant at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The resource's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been adversely affected by replacement of the building's doors and windows and the introduction of a modern addition to the northwest elevation. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffels and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21529	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 10-13

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814